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SUBJECT: LIBYAN PRESENCE IN SOMALIA

[1](#)1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

[1](#)2. THIS MORNING AT THE CEREMONY INITIATING THE AID PROJECT FOR PVOS, I TOOK THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AHMED SULEIMAN ABDALLAH, ASIDE. I RECALLED THAT WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE HAD MET WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE UNGA LAST FALL, JAMA BARRE HAD TOLD MR. SHULTZ THAT THE LIBYANS HAD WANTED TO BRING A STAFF OF 75 PEOPLE TO SOMALIA BUT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THEY COULD BRING ONLY FIVE. I WAS INFORMED THAT THE FIVE HAD NOW BECOME 12, PLUS A COUPLE OF LIBYANS AT THE LIBSOMA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. AS TO WHAT THEY WERE DOING, IT WAS CLEAR. WHEN I HAD LEFT MY EMBASSY TO COME TO THE CEREMONY, A CAR WITH LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC TAGS HAD BEEN PARKED 100 YARDS AWAY. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY WATCHING US. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE PRESENT DOZEN BECAME 50, OR 60?

[1](#)3. AHMED SULEIMAN ACTED AS IF HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF WHAT JAMA BARRE HAD TOLD THE SECRETARY. (INCIDENTALLY, AHMED SULEIMAN DISLIKES JAMA BARRE, AND THIS WAS ALSO IN MY MIND.) THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE A NEW LOOK AT THE SITUATION, AND HE THANKS ME FOR MENTIONING THIS TO HIM. HE DID THINK THAT THE SOMALI SECURITY FORCES WERE COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH US. I SAID THAT INDEED THEY WERE, BUT THE MORE LIBYANS THERE WERE, THE HARDER IT WOULD BE TO WATCH THEM. I COULD REMEMBER FROM YEARS BACK THE DIFFICULTIES THAT OUR OWN PEOPLE HAD IN THE UNITED STATES, WHEN SOVIET STAFFS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK Began TO RISE.

BRIDGES